Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 466
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

SECRET VICTORIA 413

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, KE, SE, UK

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH RENE ON KENYAN CONTACTS OF FORMER MINISTER

REF: A) STATE 161218

- B) NAIROBI 8612
- C) STATE 154275
- 1. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL A, I CONTACTED PRESIDENT RENE TO ARRANGE A MEETING TO INFORM HIM OF APPROACH TO KENYANS (REFTEL B) AND TO CONVEY POINTS SET FORTH REFTEL C. MEETING TOOK PLACE LATE AFTERNOON JULY 12.
- 2. RENE LISTENED ATTENTIVELY TO PRESENTATION WITHOUT COMMENT. HE THEN INDICATED HIS APPRECIATION FOR USG RESPONSIVENESS TO REQUEST, CALLED FOR A FILE, AND PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HIS CONTACT WITH KENYAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE.
- 3. ACCORDING RENE, KENYAN ACTING MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OSOGO ON JULY 2 SENT TELEX RESPONSE TO SEYCHELLES MESSAGE CITING ACTIVITIES IN KENYA OF EX-MINISTER JOUBERT. OSOGO ALLEGEDLY DENIED THAT ANY KENYAN OFFICIALS HAD MET WITH JOUBERT AND THAT REPORTS SECRET

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JOUBERT WAS IN KENYA WERE FALSE. RENE QUOTED OSOGO AS SAYING THAT "KENYA COULD NOT SUPPORT OR CONDONE THE MOUNTING OF AN ARMED ATTACK ON A SISTER AFRICAN COUNTRY WITH WHICH IT ENJOYS THE MOST CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP." RENE ADDED THAT OSOGO CLAIMED "MALICIOUS RUMORS" MUST HAVE BEEN SPREAD BY PEOPLE WHO WOULD WANT TO DISRUPT KENYA/SEYCHELLES TIES. HE OPINED THAT OSOGO WAS REFERRING TO TANZANIA.

- 4. RENE SAID HE PERSONALLY DRAFTED JULY 4 REPLY IN WHICH HE CLAIMED TO HAVE IRREFUTABLE EVIDENCE JOUBERT HAD BEEN IN NAIROBI FOR TWO WEEKS AND HAD HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL NJONJO AND POLICE COMMISSIONER HINGA. HE SAID HE REQUESTED GOK "TAKE STEPS" TO MAINTAIN CLOSE KENYAN/SEYCHELLES TIES. RENE SAID HE WISHED TO MAINTAIN DIRECT CONTACT WITH KENYANS THOUGH "IT IS VERY DIFFICULT." HE STATED GOK HAD NOT REPLIED TO HIS MESSAGE AND ADDED KENYA WAS ONE OF A FEW OAU COUNTRIES NOT TO HAVE RECOGNIZED HIS GOVERNMENT.
- 5. I ASKED RENE IF HE HAD ANY NEW INFORMATION ON OVERSEAS ACTIVITIES OF LEADERS OF FORMER GOVERNMENT. RENE REPLIED THAT JOUBERT'S VISIT TO KENYA HAD BEEN "COMPLETE FAILURE" AND THAT EX-MINISTER PRESENTLY VACATIONING IN NETHERLANDS. ACCORDING RENE, JOUBERT AND EX-AGRICULTURE MINISTER UZICE (WHO RENE REGARDS AS ONLY OTHER FORMER MINISTER ACTIVELY OPPOSING HIM) ARE BLAMING MANCHAM FOR FAILING TO SUPPORT COUNTER-COUP EFFORTS. FINALLY, RENE STATED THAT MANCHAM EXPECTED TO DEPART UK SHORTLY FOR TWO MONTH CRUISE.

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TAGS: PINS, KE, SE, UK, (RENE, FRANCE ALBERT)

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